

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An isolated, modified, Family 11 xylanase comprising at least one intramolecular disulfide bond and a basic amino acid at position 162, said position determined from sequence alignment of said modified xylanase with *Trichoderma reesei* xylanase II amino acid sequence defined in SEQ ID NO:16, said modified xylanase exhibiting at least 40% of optimal activity from about pH 3.5 to about pH 6.0, and from about 40 to about 60°C, said modified xylanase being thermostable exhibiting increased thermostability relative to the corresponding natural xylanase.

2-17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) The modified xylanase of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of TrX-162H-DS1 (SEQ ID NO: 62), TrX-162H-DS2 (SEQ ID NO: 63), TrX-162H-DS4 (SEQ ID NO: 64) and TrX-DS8 (SEQ ID NO: 65).

19. (previously presented) The modified xylanase of claim 18 wherein said xylanase is TrX-162H-DS1 (SEQ ID NO: 62).

20. (previously presented) The modified xylanase of claim 18, wherein said xylanase is TrX-162H-DS2 (SEQ ID NO: 63).

21. (previously presented) The modified xylanase of claim 18, wherein said xylanase is TrX-162H-DS4 (SEQ ID NO: 64).

22. (previously presented) The modified xylanase of claim 18, wherein said xylanase is TrX-DS8

(SEQ ID NO: 65).

23. (withdrawn) A method of obtaining a Family 11 xylanase comprising:

- i) selecting an organism that expresses xylanase activity, and obtaining said xylanase from said organism;
- ii) determining whether said xylanase exhibits at least 40% of optimal activity from about pH 3.5 to about pH 6.0, and from about 40 to about 60°C; and
- iii) determining whether said xylanase is thermostable, and whether said xylanase is a Family 11 xylanase; and
- iv) retaining said xylanase that express these properties.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein step i) includes partially purifying said xylanase.

25. (withdrawn) A method of preparing animal feed comprising applying the isolated xylanase of claim 1 onto said animal feed to produce a xylanase-animal feed combination, and heat sterilizing said xylanase-animal feed combination.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein said animal feed is a poultry or swine feed.

27. (withdrawn) A method of preparing animal feed comprising, applying the xylanase obtained from step iv) of claim 23 onto said animal feed to produce a xylanase-animal feed combination, and heat sterilizing said xylanase-animal feed combination.

28. (withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said animal feed is a poultry or swine feed.

29-32. (cancelled)

33. (new) The modified xylanase of claim 1, wherein the basic amino acid is selected from the group consisting of lysine, arginine, and histidine.